

Application No. 09/292,627
Amendment Dated: January 30, 2006
Reply to Office Action of November 29, 2005

Remarks/Arguments

In an Office Action dated November 29, 2005, an objection was made to claim 45 and claims 1, 2, 4-6, 12, 14-17, 19-22 and 54 were rejected. Claims 3, 7-11, 13, 18 and 55-57 were objected to. Claim 45 is corrected and claims 3, 5, 7, 13 and 18 have been amended to independent form including any intervening dependent claims. Claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 12, 14-17 and 19-22 have been cancelled in this amendment. Applicants traverse the rejections of claims 5 and 54.

Information Disclosure Statement

Applicants thank the Examiner for catching the error in the submitted PTO-1449 and initialing the references. A properly filled out PTO-1449 is provided with this response.

§102 Rejections

Claim 5 was rejected under § 102(b) over Ogawa. Applicants traverse this rejection.

Claim 5

Claim 5 requires the first virtual channel to be chosen based on the source of the Fibre Channel data frame. The Office Action references col. 7, lines 44-46 in Ogawa to meet the claim. Applicants acknowledge the use of the phrase "source routing" in the cited passage but submit that this phrase does not teach or suggest that virtual channel selection is made based on a source of the frame as required in claim 5. Referencing col. 6, lines 27 to 36, the development of the pseudo BOM cells of Ogawa is described. Specifically, Ogawa indicates the destination address in the pseudo BOM cells are based on the address of the transfer destination gateway. This thus describes destination-based selection. The BOM cell creation in Figure 7 and 8 must be done in a similar manner, as Ogawa does not indicate any different manner. Therefore when Ogawa is considered in detail, irrelevant of the potential meaning of the phrase "source routing," any actual channel selection is done using destination addresses. Therefore claim 5 is submitted as being allowable.

§103 Rejections

Claim 54 was rejected over Ogawa in view of Nishimura. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

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Claim 54 requires the first small Fibre Channel switch use a first basis to identify the virtual channel and the second small Fibre Channel switch use a second, different basis to identify the virtual channel. The Office Action referenced Ogawa and node 1b using cell 3a and node 1c using cell 3b to identify the virtual channel. Applicants respectfully submit that nodes 1b and 1c both use the same basis, namely analysis of the cell at the top place of the cell stream. See col. 6, lines 43 to col. 7, line 3. Node 1b detects the top cell 3a and uses the destination address to do VPI/VCI transformation. Node 1c detects the top cell 3a but discards it and then uses the new top cell 3b to determine the destination address for VPI/VCI transformation. Thus Applicants submit that both nodes 1b and 1c in Ogawa use the same basis, namely destination address in the top cell present at the VPI/VCI transformation stage.

Applicants therefore respectfully submit that claim 54 is allowable over Ogawa and Nishimura when the actual operations of Ogawa are fully considered.

Conclusion

Applicants request entry of the amendments as they cancel claims or correct form. Applicants submit that claims 3, 5, 7-11, 13, 18 and 23-57 are allowable.

Respectfully submitted



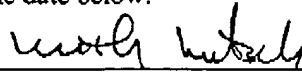
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January 30, 2006
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Keith Lutsch